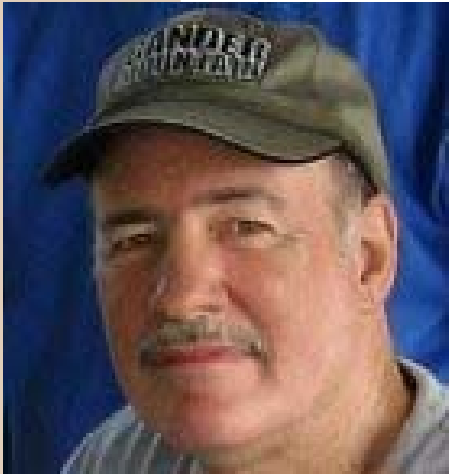


Spark Gap

Vol. 27, Issues 9 & 10, Sept/Oct 2010 *MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities for Twenty-Six Years*



REPEATER UPDATE

From the President:

The club repeater is a valuable resource, one that we do not come close to utilizing to its full potential. It is a vehicle we can use to communicate all sorts of information. Primarily we use it for nets and for severe weather activities, but the other 99% of the

time, it is mostly dormant. The only other activity seems to be for short periods during “drive time” by only a few members. That is truly a shame and a waste of resources. I know many of us monitor the repeater either from home on our base rigs, scanners, or when in the car. A number of us put out regular calls when mobile and seldom get a response. Why?

Okay, I admit I am guilty of not answering some of those calls. When home I might hear a call on a scanner, I might be in the shack on HF, or I might be tied up doing something else at the moment. In the car I might be in heavy traffic and might not be comfortable talking and driving at the same time. We all have excuses, but we all hear some of those unanswered calls. Would it hurt to return the call, just to say “hello”, or give out a signal report? Not many strangers use our repeater, but we should go out of our way to make any unfamiliar hams feel welcome. It is not only good manners, but being friendly is good P.R. for the club. I sometimes wonder when outsiders notice a lack of activity on our repeater, if they relate that to an inactive or dysfunctional club. I occasionally hear some of our members talking

on neighboring repeaters instead of ours. Is that because they find others more interesting to talk with, or is it that no one answers when they call on our own repeater? We all got into this hobby to communicate in one form or another, so why not communicate with each other? A good repeater with a wide range such as ours, can spark interest in the club, and keep club members more involved in our activities and hobby. Let’s keep the repeater active for our own enjoyment and the betterment of our club.

Some repeater etiquette:

1. When putting out an initial call, key the mic for a couple of seconds before transmitting. This will activate the repeater, and give those scanning a chance to hear your entire call and not just the tail end of it. If you get no response, try again. Your first call may not have been heard clearly.

2. Do not “kerchunk” the repeater. If you press your mic button, you are obligated to identify. If you want to know if you are reaching the repeater, simply give your call and “testing”. If you want a QSO, say you are “listening” or “monitoring”. CQ is not normally used on FM repeaters.

3. If in a conversation with 3 or more stations, the “roundtable” rotation should go in order so there is no “dead air” or “doubling”. It is a good idea to specify who you are turning it over to, such as “go ahead, Joe”, so everyone knows who’s next.

4. When in a QSO, let the repeater drop between transmissions. This serves two purposes. It lets the machine “reset” to prevent time-outs, but most importantly it allows a pause for other stations to join the

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Radio Club*



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P. O. Box 836
Franklin, IN 46131
www.midstatehams.org

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K9DY

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N9SIU

Linda
Harshbarger,
KC9GCH

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REPEATER (cont.)

conversation.

5. If you wish to join a QSO in progress, wait for a pause and simply insert your callsign. Do NOT say “break”; that is sometimes used to denote an emergency. If you DO have an emergency, saying “emergency” is the best choice and is universally understood.

6. If, in a rare instance someone is maliciously interfering with the repeater, IGNORE IT. Carry on as normal. If the interference disrupts the QSO, sign off. Do not acknowledge the interference, or make any comments about it on the air. These people want attention, don’t give it to them.

Steve — K9DYlistening

MARC Picnic

Three main ingredients always add up to a great ham radio picnic; food, fun and frequencies. That magic combo drew nearly two dozen MARC members to the annual September picnic held at the Union Christian Church shelter south of Franklin.

Brenda, KC9EBL exhibited her skills as the Top Chef. The main course consisted of hamburgers and hotdogs. Our thanks to Jacki, KI6QOG for organizing the event and bringing all the supplies together. Those attending provided an abundance of side dishes. Mother Nature provided a picture perfect day for the outing.

During the September picnic we normally swear in the new club officers, swat at bees and marvel at the lady bugs crawling on the tables.. This year we had prefect conditions. No bees, no lady bugs and no ceremony. Since our team remains the same one officer suggested we skip the ceremony and have second helpings of Hoosier ham generated food. That motion won unanimous approval and we moved to have seconds.

Our thanks to Jacki, Brenda and the Union Christian Church for hosting our fall picnic. -Jack w8ish

BAND CONTEST

Greenwood Marching Band Invitational

You could not ask for a nicer day with the sunny sky and cool weather on Saturday September 25th at the Greenwood high School. We had eight stations amateur stations help with this event. There were fifteen bands in the competition this year and we provided assistance with parking cars, busses and safety to the public. This year was also different than in years past dur to it being during daylight hours. This all worked well for everyone in attendance. All that helped did a great service to the public and were able to show amateur radio serving the public.

I would like to thank the following amateurs that helped with this event: Linda KC9GCH, Bob KC9NJM, Jack W8ISH, Brenda KC9EBL, Rusty N9LLP, Myron KC9ODW and Jim KC9ODS. I thank you all for a job well done. 73, Bob N9SIU

VEC Testing

Our Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) team is ARRL accredited, and capable of administering any amateur radio test. As a public service, the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club sponsors test sessions after all but one of its monthly meetings. (September testing is done prior to the picnic.) Meetings begin at 8:00 AM with testing following the meeting (begins about 9:30 AM until 11:00 AM).

SILENT KEY

Carol L. Osborne, KC9CFK, SK

Carol L. Osborne, 64, became a silent key on Monday, August 30, 2010. She was a resident of Franklin and former Secretary of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club. Carol will be remembered for her humor, eagerness to volunteer and for the great chili she provided for the club picnics (along with some assistance from hubby JR) along with many, many other memories. Carol was preceded in death by her husband, Meredith Osborne (JR), KB9HSE, SK; and her parents, Donald R. and Betty J. (Thour) Cunningham. Survivors include three brothers, Robert Lee and Joseph Ray Cunningham, both of Bargersville, and Ronald E. Cunningham of Morgantown; a sister, Donna J. Cunningham of Franklin; four stepsons, Meredith Osborne III of New Jersey, Jon and Jay Osborne, both of Westfield, and Daryl Osborne of Plainfield; a step-daughter, Tammy Osborne Sowers of Greenwood; and several stepgrandchildren.

The Rev. Alan Pierce conducted a funeral service at Swartz Family Community Mortuary and Memorial Center. Burial was at Greenlawn Cemetery in Franklin.

Carol was also a key member in the Thursday night Supper Club group with many of us enjoying her wit and humor during the weekly events. We will miss you.

Place Artwork
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JAMBOREE

ARRL News: October 2010

Jamboree on the Air -- Coming This Weekend to a Radio Near You! With the BSA centennial celebration as a backdrop, the 53rd Annual Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) will provide an opportunity for Scouts to get on the air and get a taste of the fun and magic of radio that has captivated many a young person over the past 100 years.

JOTA is an international scouting event organized by the World Scouting Bureau. While JOTA officially starts at 12 midnight local time Friday night/Saturday morning and goes until midnight Sunday local time, there will be plenty of stations on the air Friday evening. The official Scouting frequencies will be the center of operations. A listing of those frequencies, information about third party traffic restrictions and other details can be found on the ARRL Web site or on the World Scouting site. Each JOTA event provides an opportunity for a local club or Scout troop to get something started that can result in the beginning of a tradition of fun-filled activities.

The FM repeater aboard the South African Sumbandila OSCAR 67 (SO-67) satellite will be active over North and South America this for JOTA. According to the announcement from AMSAT-NA Vice President of Operations Drew Glasbrenner, KO4MA, the repeater will be available for 15 minutes beginning at the following dates and times (all times UTC):

* October 16: 10:39, 12:12, 13:37, 15:09, 16:42, 18:14, 19:47, 21:20, 22:38, 22:54, 23:55

* October 17: 00:14, 01:28, 01:44, 03:00, 03:19, 04:55, 06:35, 10:20, 11:53, 13:15, 13:32, 14:50, 16:23, 17:56, 19:29, 21:01, 22:35

The SO-67 repeater receives at 145.875 MHz FM (233.6 CTCSS) and re-transmits at 435.345 MHz FM. Local pass predictions are available from AMSAT-NA's online calculator.

-- Dave Cripe, NM0S

WA9RDF

Repeater

146.835/

146.235 MHz

151.4 Hz PL

Tone

Weekly Net

Every Sunday

at 7PM ET

***Tune in to hear
the ARRL
Newsline!***

*The Mid-State
Amateur Radio Club
sponsors a weekly
traffic and social net
on our repeater. The
net begins at 7:00
p.m. local time, and
features local news,
announcements, and
NTS traffic, as well as
rebroadcasts of
Amateur Radio
Newsline. This is a
great chance to
meet other local
amateur radio
operators and test
your operating
skills.*

2010 Schedule of Events

OCTOBER 2010

- 9 Lake County Amateur Radio Club Hamfest, Crown Point, IN**
- 16 MARC Meeting - 8:00 AM, Franklin, IN**
Located at the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN. VEC Testing after the meeting (approx. 9:30 am to 11:00 am)
- 16 Indianapolis (Lawrence) Marathon**
Contact Mike Palmer (N9FEB) at www.indyhams.org for more information or to volunteer.
- 31 Halloween - Goblin Patrol**
Contact Dave Daily (KB9LOT) at vicepresident@midstatehams.org to volunteer.

NOVEMBER 2010

- 6 Indianapolis Monumental Marathon**
Contact Mike Palmer (N9FEB) at www.indyhams.org for more information or to volunteer.
- 13-14 Ft. Wayne Hamfest; Allen County War Memorial Coliseum Exposition Center, Ft. Wayne, IN**
- 20 MARC Meeting - 8:00 AM, Franklin, IN**
Located at the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN. VEC Testing after the meeting (approx. 9:30 am to 11:00 am)
- 25 Thanksgiving Day**
- 27 Evansville Hamfest; Vanderburgh Co. 4-H Center, Evansville, IN**

DECEMBER 2010

- 18 MARC Meeting - 8:00 AM, Franklin, IN**
Located at the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN. VEC Testing after the meeting (approx. 9:30 am to 11:00 am)
- 25 Christmas Day**

NOTICE: MARC is needing a new newsletter editor. I will no longer be able to complete the newsletter each month beginning in January 2011. Please contact me or one of the officers if this is something you would like to take on. I will still be able to assist and provide information and articles but am no longer able to do a monthly newsletter.

Thanks,
KC9GCH Linda

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Spark Gap

Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the **THIRD SATURDAY** of each month in the basement of the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, Indiana 46131.

See our website, www.midstatehams.org, for maps on how to get to our meeting.



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October 2010 Newsletter – Photo Page

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2010 MARC Picnic	
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2010 Hilltop		
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